

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07167 181623Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7167

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC, IT
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ANDREOTTI

REF: STATE 096901

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ANDREOTTI ON APRIL 17. HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE. HIS OFFICE RELEASED THE TEXT OF THE LETTER TO THE PRESS ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17. IN THE COURSE OF OUR BRIEF CONVERSATION ANDREOTTI COMMENTED ON SEVERAL OTHER TOPICS.

2. THE MORO KIDNAPPING. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT THE MORO FAMILY HAD ASKED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE RED BRIGADES FOR MORO'S RELEASE. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT, ALONG WITH THE ITALIAN CARITAS ORGANIZATION, WERE THE SUBJECT OF SPECULATION IN THE PRESS OF APRIL 18. WITH REGARD TO THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE MORO KIDNAPPING, ANDREOTTI SAID THAT THE DC PARTY IS AND WILL REMAIN FIRM IN ITS OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BR AND TO RELEASING PRISONERS, PAYING RANSOM, ETC., IN RETURN FOR MORO'S RELEASE. HE SAID THAT AS LONG AS THE DC REMAINS FIRM ON THESE POINTS, IT WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID COMMUNIST OR OTHER PRESSURE FOR BRINGING THE PCI INTO A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY. BY THE SAME TOKEN, ANDREOTTI DOES NOT FORESEE ANY CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP

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PAGE 02 ROME 07167 181623Z

OF THE DC UNTIL THE MORO CASE IS DEFINITELY RESOLVED. HE SAID THAT THE DC IS NOW BEING RUN BY AN INFORMAL COLLEGIAL LEADERSHIP CONSISTING OF ZACCAGNINI, GALLONI, GASPARI, BARTOLOMEI, PICCOLI, AND ANDREOTTI HIMSELF.

3. CALIFANO VISIT. ANDREOTTI STATED THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING SECRETARY CALIFANO DURING HIS VISIT TO ROME IN EARLY MAY. HE

SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE FRIULI DINNER IN SECRETARY CALIFANO'S HONOR AND SAID THAT HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THAT DINNER.

4. SOVIET SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES. ANDREOTTI MADE REFERENCE TO SOVIET PRESSURE FOR SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES. HE SAID THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE SOVIETS, THE PCI, AND THE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF NAPLES, PLAYED AGAINST THE EXTENSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT IN NAPLES, HAD CREATED A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ANSWER. HE INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO RESIST SOVIET DEMANDS BUT RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCREASE US NAVY SHIP MAINTENANCE IN NAPLES. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OF US SHIP REPAIR ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN IN NAPLES IN RECENT YEARS (WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE). ANDREOTTI OBVIOUSLY WELCOMES A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN NATO BUT AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A DOMESTICALLY ACCEPTABLE POLITICAL BASIS FOR REJECTING SOVIET OFFERS THAT WILL BE SEEN IN NAPLES AS PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF NEW EMPLOYMENT. GARDNER

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